GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:687
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2003
SMUGGLING OF CARDAMOM
P.C. THOMAS

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Cardamom from Guatemala is being smuggled to India through Nepal and Calcutta airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases booked during the last two years;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check it?

Answer

FINANCE MINISTER (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a), (b),(c) & (d) : A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 687 FOR 09.05.2003

Cardamom as a commodity is prone to being smuggled across the Indo-Nepal border. Details of the cases of smuggling of Cardamom, detected across Indo-Nepal border and Kolkata airport during the last two years are furnished in the table given below :-

TABLE

Year	Number of cases booked	Quantity of Cardamom seized (in quintals)#	Value of seizures (Rs. in lakhs)
2001-2002	9	10.40	2.15
2002-2003	122	26.62	23.02

(# country of origin not known)

All customs field formations including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) have been alerted to take necessarysteps to thwart attempts at smuggling of any goods into India, including Cardamom.